

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF GREAT)	FINAL DECISION AND
PLAINS ETHANOL, LLC FOR APPROVAL OF)	ORDER DETERMINING
SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE,)	RIGHT TO RECEIVE
INC. TO PROVIDE ITS ELECTRIC SERVICE)	SERVICE
)	EL02-009

On May 29, 2002, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition from Great Plains Ethanol, LLC (Great Plains) for approval, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-56, of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Southeastern) to provide electric service for a new ethanol plant with a demand of more than 2000 kilowatts, which Great Plains intends to construct at a site approximately one mile east of Chancellor, South Dakota (Plant). The Plant will be located in the assigned service territory of Xcel Energy.

On May 30, 2002, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 21, 2002, to interested individuals and entities. On June 19, 2002, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from Xcel Energy (Xcel). At a regularly scheduled meeting of July 24, 2002, the Commission granted intervention to Xcel. On September 3, 2002, the Commission received a Motion to Withdraw Intervention from Xcel.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-42, 49-34A-56, 49-34A-58 and 49-34A-59.

A hearing on the Petition was held on September 24, 2002, at 11:00 A.M., in Room 412 of the State Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. Great Plains, Southeastern and the Commission Staff appeared at the hearing. Following the evidentiary portion of the hearing, the Commission voted unanimously to determine that Great Plains could receive its electric service for the Plant from Southeastern.

Having considered the evidence of record and applicable law, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Plant is a new facility currently under construction and will be a new customer of Southeastern at a new location. Exhibit A at 1.
2. The contracted electric service requirements of the load to be served will exceed a minimum demand of two thousand kilowatts. Exhibit A, Electric Service Agreement, Section 6.c. Expected electric service requirements are a peak demand of 4500 kw, an estimated connected load of 5900 kw and an annual kw consumption of 3,507,000 with an annual load factor of 85%. Exhibit A, Question No. 3.

3. Southeastern will have an adequate supply of power available in the vicinity of the Plant to serve the needs of the Plant and other customers in the area. Exhibit A, Electric Service Proposal Analysis of U.S. Energy Services at 2; Exhibit B, DGR Memorandum.
4. Southeastern's electric system will be enhanced and improved by being allowed to provide the electric service to the Plant and such service will benefit the cooperative and its members economically. Exhibit B at 3.
5. After construction of the transmission and substation by East River Electric, Southeastern will have adequate facilities from which electric service of the type required may be delivered. Exhibit A at 2; Exhibit B, DGR Memorandum. The new facilities to be constructed will be paid for in the rates to be charged Great Plains. Hearing testimony of Brad Schardin.
6. Great Plains has expressed a preference to be served by Southeastern. Exhibit A at 2.
7. Permitting Great Plains to receive its electric service for the Plant from Southeastern will promote the public interest. Exhibit B at 3.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-42, 49-34A-56, 49-34A-58 and 49-34A-59.
2. The Plant will be a new customer of Southeastern at a new location as those terms are used in SDCL 49-34A-56.
3. The Electric Service Agreement between Great Plains and Southeastern provides for a contracted minimum demand for the Plant of two thousand kilowatts and the actual demand is expected to be significantly in excess of this.
4. The Commission has considered the six factors set forth in SDCL 49-34A-56 and had determined that the Plant being permitted to receive its electric service from Southeastern will promote the well being of Southeastern and its customers and is in the public interest.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that Great Plains Ethanol, LLC shall be permitted to receive its electric service for its Chancellor ethanol plant from Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this Final Decision and Order was duly entered on the _____ day of October, 2002. Pursuant to SDCL 1-26-32, this Final Decision and Order will take effect 10 days after the date of receipt or failure to accept delivery of the decision by the parties.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this _____ day of October, 2002.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner